

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 21-29 have been withdrawn.

Claim Labels

In the present response and amendments, Applicants have labeled claims 21-29 as “(withdrawn).”

Claim Objections

Applicants have amended claim 7 to correct the informality noted by Examiner.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In response to the 10 items identified by the Examiner as follows (identified by the same numbers used by the Examiner):

I. Claim 1 has been amended to confirm that the Examiner’s interpretation of the claims as being “open” is correct.

II. Claim 1 has been amended to delete the term “residual elements.” In light of the open “comprising” language, it is unnecessary.

III. – VI. Claim 1 has been amended to make consistent the use of the term “strip” and eliminate the use of “band.” It is believed these amendments address the lack of clear antecedent noted by the Examiner.

VII. – X. Claims 15 – 18 have each been amended to clarify that the strip composition can further comprise the noted elements.

Amendment to the Specification:

Equation 3 has been amended to correct an obviously erroneous equation. The amended equation properly represents the data compiled in Table 1, contained in the application as originally filed. It does not represent new matter.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 to 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Huppi (U.S. Patent No. 5,643,370). The Examiner asserts that Huppi “teaches all aspects of the instantly claimed invention [but] Huppi does not teach a specific example that embodies all aspects of the claimed invention.” In fact, Huppi does not teach anything about the need for an isomorphic layer thickness of at least 2%. In fact, there is no mention of an isomorphic layer in the Huppi reference at all. Because it is lacking this teaching, the process described in Huppi does not consistently produce a grain oriented electrical steel with a permeability measured at 796 A/m of at least 1840. For example, although all of the alloys shown in Table 7 of the Huppi reference but example AE meet the compositional requirement of the present claims, they do not exhibit a permeability of at least 1840. The process of the present invention, which includes the determination either by measurement or calculation of the thickness of the isomorphic layer, can be used to more consistently predict such a result.

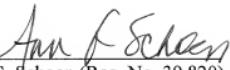
Conclusion

Applicant has made an earnest effort to be fully responsive to the Examiner’s rejections and believes that claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Applicant solicits the allowance of these claims.

If, however, the Examiner should for any reason consider this application not to be in condition for allowance she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further action.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, including any fees required for an extension of time not already paid for or any other required fees not already paid for, or to credit any overpayment of fees, to Frost Brown Todd LLC Deposit Account No. 06-2226.

Respectfully Submitted,



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